



Date: April 13, 2013

To: North Dakota Fire and EMS Agencies

From: Chris Teter (Northern Plains Regional Safety Manager)

Subject: 60 EMTs and Paramedics (Job Displacement)

To: Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of owners, EMTs, and Paramedics with Dixie Ambulance Service located in St. George, Utah. Recently, Dixie Ambulance Service was forced to shut down their operations in Southern Utah due to a political incident involving another ambulance service. This is leaving about 60 well qualified EMTs and Paramedics out of a job.

Dixie Ambulance Service is a private owned service and has been operating since 1981. This ambulance service was the first to start running EMS operations in St. George, Utah. "Dixie" refers to the very Southern part of the state and was given that nickname back when Utah's pioneers were growing cotton in the warm climate, best known as "Utah's Dixie". With this being said, "Utah's Dixie" has a population of 80,000 plus residents. Dixie Ambulance covers the St. George area and the surrounding communities which equal a population of 100,000 plus residents. Dixie Ambulance is a Paramedic agency and has ambulances staffed 24/7. Dixie Ambulance is staffed with National Registry Paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians- Basic and Intermediate Advanced.

I had the opportunity of working with Dixie Ambulance for 10 years. As you may know, the EMS and fire industry build a good working relationship with their fellow co-workers, first responders, surrounding agencies, and then become family. Most of the Dixie Ambulance employees have worked with the company ever since operations started back in the early 80's. It was very common for this ambulance service to have 20 plus emergency calls a day and the staff usually worked 24 hour shifts while catching naps on occasion at the living quarters.

Dixie Ambulance, unfortunately, is shutting down their operations because an ambulance service out of Salt Lake City, Utah is taking over the 911 EMS servicing license in St. George, Utah. This has pushed Dixie Ambulance to shut their operations down on Sunday, April 14, 2013 and will put 60 plus employees in the unemployment line. This has been a unique case and these 2 ambulance services have been battling in court for the last few years to prove to the Utah Bureau of EMS, local, and state officials of who should provide ambulance service in St. George, Utah. The bad thing about this, the Utah State Senator is an attorney and represented the ambulance service out of Salt Lake City during the hearing. This case has turned into a political issue and obviously involved a conflict of interest. Instead of officials looking at the hard facts and evidence of Dixie Ambulance's background in good EMS care, dedication, and passion for saving lives, they would rather pay each other big money and turn it in to a monopoly. Sure this may be a part of life and the way the world turns, but shutting down an ambulance service that provides excellent patient care and putting employees out of a job is not the way the world should turn.

I am well aware of the large boom that North Dakota state has going on right now and the rapid growth that has happened over the last few years. With the large growth, I understand too, that EMS and Fire agencies start seeing an increase in the amount of emergency calls that they get throughout the day. I am currently trying to help out the Dixie Ambulance Paramedics and EMTs that have lost their career dream, goals, and passion towards saving lives. Most of these young men and women have families to provide for and are trying to make a living just like you and I. Southern Utah does not have any options for these Paramedics and EMTs to move on to another agency in their home town because Dixie Ambulance was the only provider for that area, and most of the surrounding cities are volunteer agencies. This has forced everyone to either make a fast career change, or move to another state to find an EMS job.

I would like some direction and help to get some jobs for these 60 plus employees that were required to leave their current EMS position. If your agency is hiring, please give me the information so I can pass it along to my fellow co-workers at Dixie Ambulance Service. I understand that North Dakota is trying to keep up with the oil boom and agencies have been trying to find good, well qualified individuals to bring onto their teams. I guarantee that I can give a good reference for any EMT and/or Paramedic that is a former employee of Dixie Ambulance. I can also guarantee that if they are willing to move up to North Dakota to stay in the career that they have passion for, they will be an outstanding employee for any agency.

If you would like more information on understanding the case with Dixie Ambulance Service, you can find the resources online. This is the biggest news event that is happening in Utah because of the job displacement and political concerns that the public has with the wrongful shutdown of this Ambulance Service. There has been a Facebook page that was created called "Save Dixie Ambulance". This page is set up for the community to support the employees of Dixie Ambulance, as well as, for people to understand the "uncalled for" Utah political issue that has shut down a fantastic, well known, ambulance service. On April 20, 2013, there will be an event held in St. George to recognize all employees of the outstanding performance they have done over the years for the community of "Utah's Dixie". I appreciate your time in reading this letter and please pass along to all North Dakota Fire and EMS agencies that may be hiring.

Sincerely,

Chris Teter
Northern Plains Regional Safety Manager
Office- 701-664-4500
Cell- 701-580-1096
chris.teter@pilotlogistics.com